



King County

Community Services Division

**Department of
Community and Human Services**

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Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB)

Meeting Summary

May 24, 2012 2-4 pm

King County Chinook Building, Room 118 -Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Douglas Hoople at 2:10 pm.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople – Chair, Kathy Lewis, Cynthia Lefever - Vice-Chair, Robert Stephens, Jr., Bill Wood

Board Members Excused/Absent: Stan Gunno, Roger Welles

King County Staff Present: George Dignan, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Debora Gay, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Jessica Knaster-Wasse, Public Health, Seattle & King County (PHSKC); Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Pat Lemus, DCHS; Geoff Miller, Mental Health Chemical Addiction and Dependency Services (MHCADSD); Linda Peterson, DCHS; Linda Wells, DCHS

Guests: None

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Doug welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Review of Meeting Summary

The March 15, 2012 VCLOB meeting summary was approved as written.

Farewell to Linda Peterson, Division Director, Community Services Division

Douglas Hoople, Board Chair, took a few moments to recognize the hard work and dedication of retiring Community Services Division Director, Linda Peterson, over the course of the levy.

Update on Levy Fund Balance Ordinance

Debora Gay provided an update on the Levy Fund Balance Ordinance developed to manage the funds available from savings due to under-expenditure and increased revenue over the life of the 2006-2011 levy. Debora shared that staff took board members input very seriously and the latest draft department proposal and allocation plan for the expenditure of the additional Veterans Levy funds incorporates the board recommendations provided at the April joint board



meeting. These recommendations were to direct funds to PTSD Treatment, military family counseling, outreach to special populations and the Veterans Internship Program.

Doug thanked levy staff for communicating VCLOB's priorities to the Executive's Office.

Discussion

In response to questions, the following additional information was shared.

- The question was asked will the Youth/Young Adults housing be available to dependents of veterans? Yes. A small amount of Veterans Levy funds has been allocated to Youth/Young Adults housing to reflect this possibility as well as it being available to young adult veterans themselves.
- The details of the structure of the veterans' internship program are under discussion.
- Staff will inform board members of the dates of King County Council hearings on the supplemental budget ordinance.
- Board members would like a copy of the final version of the ordinance that gets transmitted to Council.

Timeline

The supplemental ordinance to appropriate the levy carryover funds will likely be placed before council in July and August and approved in before fall.

Implementation Plan Review – Pat Lemus, Geoff Miller

Strategy 3.2 Veteran and Trauma Competency Training - Pat reviewed the services provided under Strategy 3.2, Veteran and trauma competency training, and shared with the board members an addendum to the plan which would provide \$65,000 in one-time Veterans and Human Services Levy funding for Moral Reconnection Therapy, a train-the-trainer program. Activity 3.2 receives an annual allocation of \$250,000 in Levy funds of which \$200,000 is from the Veterans Levy and \$50,000 from the Human Services Levy. Of the \$250,000 allocated to this strategy it is proposed that a one-time allocation of \$65,000 (\$40,000 Veterans Levy and \$25,000 Human Services Levy) would be allocated to Moral Reconnection Therapy for 2012.

Discussion

- The dollars in this activity provide TBI/PTSD and military culture training.
- The next conference provided by funding from this strategy will take place in the fall of 2012 and provide a more intensive focus on training professionals.
- The Veterans Training Support Center (VTSC) through a contract with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) provides the military culture training for providers and community members. The community members are informed of the military culture training through a variety of contact lists and first responders, including levy-funded providers. Classes fill up very quickly and the program has gained tremendous momentum. Training can be requested for small groups.
- Cynthia would like a copy of the current training curriculum and requested the advisory committee for this activity be re-convened. Pat agreed to obtain the current curriculum and set up a meeting of the advisory group for this activity soon.

- It was suggested that Veterans Training Support Center (VTSC) or levy staff provide City Mayors with the VTSC training information as mayors are able to quickly distribute the information to their communities.

3.2 Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) – Geoff Miller, MHCADSD Program Manager provided an overview of the MRT program. MRT is a cognitive-behavioral program that uses a step-by-step group counseling treatment approach. “Conation” is an archaic term for “ego”. Reconation is an approach to help clients re-evaluate their decisions and raise their moral decision making approach. The therapy has been an evidenced based practice model for several decades and has been proven effective with veterans with TBI.

The addendum provides MHCADSD one-time funding in 2012 of \$65,000 to provide an MRT train the trainer program to five service providers who will have the capability to train up to 100 additional trainers throughout King County. This will allow the County to provide a sustainable, training resource for local providers, in particular, those who work with veterans’ providers. For more information on the MRT therapy, go to CCI.org (Correctional Counseling Inc.).

Discussion

- After the initial five individuals are trained, the next group will be chosen from the forty-one countywide agencies.
- MRT is group therapy. Current MRT groups are available for participants in the mental health and criminal justice courts. Services will be available to veterans’ court participants.

Strategy 1.2 A Enhanced Outreach to Women Veterans and Veterans of Color – Pat Lemus

The original Request for Proposal (RFP) for this activity was released in December of 2009 and awards announced in the spring of 2010. The highest scores went to proposals submitted by the Community Psychiatric Clinic (CPC) and El Centro de la Raza, who were awarded funds. Two VCLOB members served on the RFP review panel. At that time there was a desire to fund some one-time targeted outreach to African American Veterans. As a result Therapeutic Health Services (THS) and El Centro were awarded remaining funds to provide targeted outreach to African American veterans.

The new Service Improvement Plan (SIP) for the 2012 – 2017 Levy has allocated \$300,000 annually for this activity which is a smaller annual amount than that available at the time the RFP was conducted. All contracts were extended into 2012, but there has been a dilemma of what to do in light of the lower funding available. Currently all the contracts have been extended to December 31, 2012 with the funding available in 2012. It is hoped some unspent 2006-2011 Levy funds might be allocated through a supplemental ordinance to fund these activities through 2012 at the same level they received last year.

Pat proposed in light of the reduced funding allocated by the new SIP that a RFP be conducted in the fall of 2012 in time to have service contracts in place by January 2013. In preparation for the RFP staff is reviewing county demographics and populations currently being served to identify those veteran populations in the greatest need of outreach services.

Chairs Report – Douglas Hoople, Chair

Doug attended the RHSLOB meeting earlier in the week and reported that the RHSLOB expressed their appreciation for staff efforts to be sure the Human Services board members' recommended priorities were reflected in the proposed Supplemental Ordinance on the use of carryover funds.

Staff Report – Marcy Kubbs/Debora Gay

- The 2011 Annual Report is due to Council on June 30, 2012.
- General Colin Powell will be speaking at the Westin in Downtown Seattle on Wednesday, June 6 from 8-9 pm.
- Don Moreland's memorial will be held tomorrow, Friday, May 25.
- The 2011 Levy Annual Report will be in front of the Law Justice Health and Human Services committee August 28 and will then most likely be sent to the Regional Policy Committee in August. Board Chairs may be called on to present to Council at these meetings. Staff will communicate the dates once they are confirmed.
- Future meeting dates:
 - Joint Board meeting - June 28 from 2-4pm. Doug and Cynthia announced they will not be available to attend.
 - RHSLOB - Wednesday, July 18, 2-4pm
 - VCLOB - Thursday, July 25, 2-4pm
- The budget ordinance to appropriate the levy carryover will likely be placed before council in July and August and acted on before fall.

Old Business

- Cynthia requested members return the PTSD DVD's and book of poetry if members are done using them.
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers stay with the veteran. As a result, if there is a marital dispute and the veteran leaves the home, the family loses their housing. The board would like to know how to assist families that might find themselves in this predicament. Linda Peterson and Debora Gay have given this question to the Five Year Plan to End Homelessness to consider and respond to.

New Business

- None.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

- None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.